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NORFOLK.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST., 1945.

Mr. Chairman, Madam & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st., 1945. On the 5th November, 1945 I was released from the Royal Air Force Medical Service and returned to your district to resume the duties of Medical Officer of Health, which duties I had temporarily relinquished during the war years. Dr. Irene B.M. Green, who had held the office during my absence, relinquished her temporary appointment on my return.

In writing this, my first post-war annual report, I should like to express my sincere appreciation of the efficient and conscientious way in which Dr. Green carried out the duties of Medical Officer of Health on my behalf.

STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	2670
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid-1945	2283
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945)	850
Rateable value (end of 1945)	9731
Sum represented by a penny rate	£35

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Legitimate	14	18	
Illegitimate	-	2	Total 34.

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population ... 14.9.
England & Wales 16.1.

Stillbirths Nil.

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
	20	16	Total 36.

Death rate per 1,000 estimated
population 15.7.
England & Wales 11.4.

Deaths from perperal causes Nil.

Deaths of infants under one year of age 1 male.

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births 26.3.
England & Wales 46.0.

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Following is given a summary of the vital statistics during the past eight years : -

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Population	2430	2444	2670	2338	2192	2221	2388	2283
Birth Rate	12.8	10.3	12.7	14.1	14.1	21.7	20.1	14.9
Death Rate	17.7	11.4	9.4	18.8	18.7	16.3	13.6	15.7

During the year there were registered in the district, 34 live births of which number 14 were male and 20 female. The birth rate was 14.9 and slightly lower than the birth rate for England & Wales as a whole.

There were no stillbirths registered during the year.

Of the 36 deaths which occurred during the year, 20 were males and 16 females. The death rate for the year (15.7) was higher than that for England & Wales (11.4) and higher than the rate for the previous year (13.6). The most frequent causes of death were heart disease, cancer & cerebral haemorrhage, which together accounted for 22 of the 36 deaths registered.

The following table shows the incidence of deaths classified according to cause :-

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Cancer	3	2	5
Cerebral haemorrhage	6	2	8
Heart disease	6	3	9
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Other Respiratory diseases	1	0	1
Nephritis	0	1	1
Premature birth	1	0	1
Accidents	0	1	1
All other causes	2	5	7
Other digestive diseases	0	1	1
	20	16	36

The following table shows the incidence of deaths at various age groups. (these figures are taken from the returns of the local Registrar of Births & Deaths and ARE NOT corrected for outward and inward transfers.

Age Groups	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	1	-	1
1 -	-	-	-
2 -	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-
10 -	1	-	1
20 -	-	-	-
30 -	-	-	-
40 -	-	-	-
50 -	1	1	2
60 -	4	-	4
70 -	6	5	11
80 -	2	5	7
90 -	0	1	1
All ages	16	11	27



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INFECTIOUS DISEASES. (Other than tuberculosis).

There were no cases of notifiable diseases reported during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from that disease are shown in the subjoined tables:-

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Resp.		Non-resp.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
15 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

There were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

The number of patients on the tuberculosis register at the end of the year were as follows :-

	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory	3	3	6
Non-respiratory	-	3	3
	3	6	9

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The District Council's Immunisation Scheme was continued throughout the year, during which time, 37 pre-school children and 10 children of school age were immunised. An analysis of the records of children who have received immunisation at any time during their lives, is as follows :-

	Under School Age					5 - 15	Total
	Under 1 year	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -		
Numbers immunised	-	17	10	25	15	306	373
Estimated Population			223			311	534
Percentage Immunised			30%			98%	69%

WATER SUPPLY.

The main water supply to the Wells Urban District continued to yield a water of excellent quality. At the end of 1945, 631 households were receiving water from this supply out of a total of 850 households.

The results of the last analysis carried out on November 22nd, 1945 are recorded below:-

Total solids in solution	56.7
Free and saline ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid ammonia	Trace
Chlorine in chlorides	15.3
Nitrogen as nitrates	0.67
Nitrites	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate	Nil
Hardness total	24.2 degrees
Hardness permanent	12.6 degrees
Bacteriological analysis	
Colonies per ml. on agar at	
37 degrees C.	None
Coliform bacillus	Absent in 100 ml.
Physical characters	Clear

'This is a pure and wholesome water, of great organic and bacteriological purity. It is quite suitable for drinking purposes. There is a small rise in salinity since the last analysis.'

(SGND. W. LINCOLNE SUTTON).

SHELLFISH.

During the year no mussels were sent away by rail for human consumption owing to the great demand for these shellfish for bait for line fishing. Cockles are gathered from the clean sands and the samples taken by the County Sanitary Inspector have proved satisfactory.

There are no oyster lays in this area.

CONCLUSION.

Whilst the health of the population in the area may be considered to have been very satisfactory, the problems associated with insanitary houses still remains and much work requires to be done to bring the living conditions up to the desired minimum standard. It is hoped that during the coming year, a complete survey of the working class houses in the town will be made and action taken to remedy the defects and deficiencies found.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the encouraging support given to me by the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and the loyal co-operation of the staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L.G. ANDERSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

